



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 21-1976, **Agenda Item #:** 24.

6/3/2021

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Pflugerville Independent School District for the provision of startup costs for one new Pre-Kindergarten classroom to expand affordable high quality early childcare options for Austin/Travis County residents, with a three-month term, in an amount not to exceed \$16,000.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Public Health.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$16,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Operating Budget.

### **Prior Council Action:**

April 25, 2019 - Council approved the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Del Valle Independent School District for the provision of startup costs for four new Pre-Kindergarten classrooms to expand affordable high-quality early care and education options for Austin/Travis County residents, on an 11-0 vote.

### **For More Information:**

Adrienne Sturup, Interim Director, 512-972-5010; Donna Sundstrom, Assistant Director 512-972-5038; Cynthia Gamez, Program Manager 512-972-6216; Ruth Dalrymple, Acting Agenda Coordinator 512-972-5045.

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

April 11, 2018 - The Early Childhood Council recommended for Council consideration all items developed by the work group responding to Council Resolution 20170928-057, including "Leverage up to \$112,000 in State funding per classroom per year by investing in one-time startup costs associated with setting up new Pre-K 3 classrooms, including up to eight classrooms in Austin Independent School District and up to 3 classrooms in Pflugerville Independent School District."

### **Additional Backup Information:**

On September 28, 2017, City Council approved Resolution No. 20170928-057, which directed the compilation of information related to community data, equity gaps, and potential policies and resources that could provide opportunities to expand existing affordable high-quality childcare services and access to Pre-K. One of the twelve deliverables was to consider the availability of Pre-K programs and provide funding options for the start-up costs to expand Pre-K programs in the Austin Independent School District and surrounding school districts that enroll Austin children.

As part of the efforts to respond to Resolution No. 20170928-057, Austin Public Health and community work group members worked with school districts that served Austin children to determine the current level of Pre-K services and gauge capacity for potential expansion opportunities for Pre-K. Each investment of \$16,000 covers the start-up costs for a new Pre-K classroom. Once start-up costs are covered, the school district can

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cover the cost of the teacher by drawing down Average Daily Attendance (also referred to as ADA) funding from the state. Pflugerville Independent School District will open a self-contained three-year-old special education classroom and hold two half-day sessions with up to 10 students in each session. The school district will draw down \$3,600 for each student served in the new classrooms.

Investing in Pre-K is aligned with the community's Success By 6 Strategic Plan for Austin/Travis County for 2019-2023, which includes the following strategies for Early Childhood Education related to Pre-K:

- Increase the number of eligible three and four-year-old children enrolled in Public Pre-K in Travis County school districts and other high-quality early education settings.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Health and Environment and Economic Opportunity & Affordability.